THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The study quoted is understood to be only at the draft stage. As and when it is finanlised the Government would look into its contents.

The present policy of the Government is largely based on the strategy and provision of the 9th Five Year Plan. Government are also considering formulation of an integrated policy for human settlement, the basic objective of which is to ensure balanced and harmonious distribution of population over different category of settlements.

Deficiencies in the Office of DGS&D

*206. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are deficiencies in the system of documentation, monitoring and accountability procedure in management of arbitration cases in the Office of the Director General of Supply and Disposal, which has led to delays in follow-up action and rejection of many claims;

(b) if so, what are the full facts in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to rectify the deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) There is a well laid down procedure in the DGS&D for documentation and monitoring of the arbitration cases. The system is reviewed from time to time. Some of the measures/steps taken in the recent past to improve the existing monitoring system are as under:—

In October, 1999 the system has been modified, deleting the Risk Purchase provisions. A system of performance guarantee was introduced in lieu of the Risk Purchase to reduce litigation cases and to safeguard the government interest.

Training programme were organised this year by the DGS&D. A number of programmes were conducted by the DGS&D on the subject of better management of existing litigation cases. DGS&D also conducted training programme for educating the indentors and the consignees for inculcating in them a contractual discipline since the conduct of the indentors and the consignees is responsible for a number of litigation cases.